

# Brookline Preservation Commission

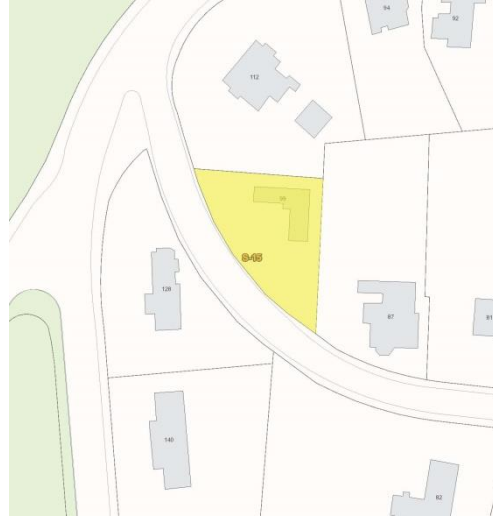
## Demolition Application Report

Address: 99 Fairmount Street

Applicant: John Pan

Building Type: House

National Register Listing (if Applicable): N/A



### Historical/Architectural Significance:

In 1923 the dwelling at 99 Fairmount Street was permitted for construction on the vacant site of what once included one of the earliest houses on the street, which had been demolished by 1919. The current house was designed by the Boston firm Strickland, Blodget and Law, for occupancy of one of the partners, Alexander Law and his family. Strickland, Blodget and Law established their partnership in 1920, after all three had previously worked at Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. The firm notably designed the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Boston, in addition to a number of residences, apartment buildings and stores in the Boston area, as well as Brookline's fire station #4 on Boylston Street by the Chestnut Hill Reservoir.

Alexander Law was born in Scotland, and immigrated to the United States with his mother and siblings in 1910, at the age of 22. Prior to leaving Scotland, Law had received a degree from the Glasgow School for Art. Law resided at 99 Fairmount Street with his wife Rosamond, and their three daughters until his death in 1966, and the property remained in his wife's ownership, until her death in 1987. At that time the property was sold to John Hoskin.

A desirable site situated atop a hill, the house provides its residents views of the nearby Brookline Reservoir in a thoughtfully designed first floor end room with nearly wall to wall windows on three sides. It does not appear that the Law family made any footprint changes to the wood framed, L-shaped structure; with the only permitted changes during their occupancy being for the closing of a double hung window and placement of a casement window in 1926, as well as the installation of aluminum siding in 1959. According to a history provided by Hoskin in a 2003 ZBA application, the house was in poor condition at the time of his purchase in 1987, and he worked to refurbish the dwelling including replacing the aluminum siding with 8" natural cedar siding to weather, which matched the original, as well as the repair of the painted wood windows where possible. In 2003, Hoskin added a second floor addition over the existing side entry landing, facing the reservoir, as well as a two story rear addition; each with a slate roof and wood siding to match the existing house. In 2007, Hoskin extended the second floor to overhang a side entrance on the right side. The plans state

that the existing siding, window, and corner boards were to be reused in an effort to help maintain as much of the structure's original appearance still evident today.

The house at 99 Fairmount Street meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

c. The buildings are associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth;

d. The buildings are historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The house at 99 Fairmount Street retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, and workmanship.



Aerial view of 99 Fairmount Street, looking east.



Aerial view of 99 Fairmount Street, looking north.





Aerial view of 99 Fairmount Street, looking west.



Aerial view of 99 Fairmount Street, looking south.





Photographs of the front of 99 Fairmount Street





1980 Photograph of 99 Fairmount Street



Photograph of the front and side of 99 Fairmount Street





Photograph of 99 Fairmount Street taken by the intersection of Dudley and Fairmount Streets





Additional photograph of 99 Fairmount Street





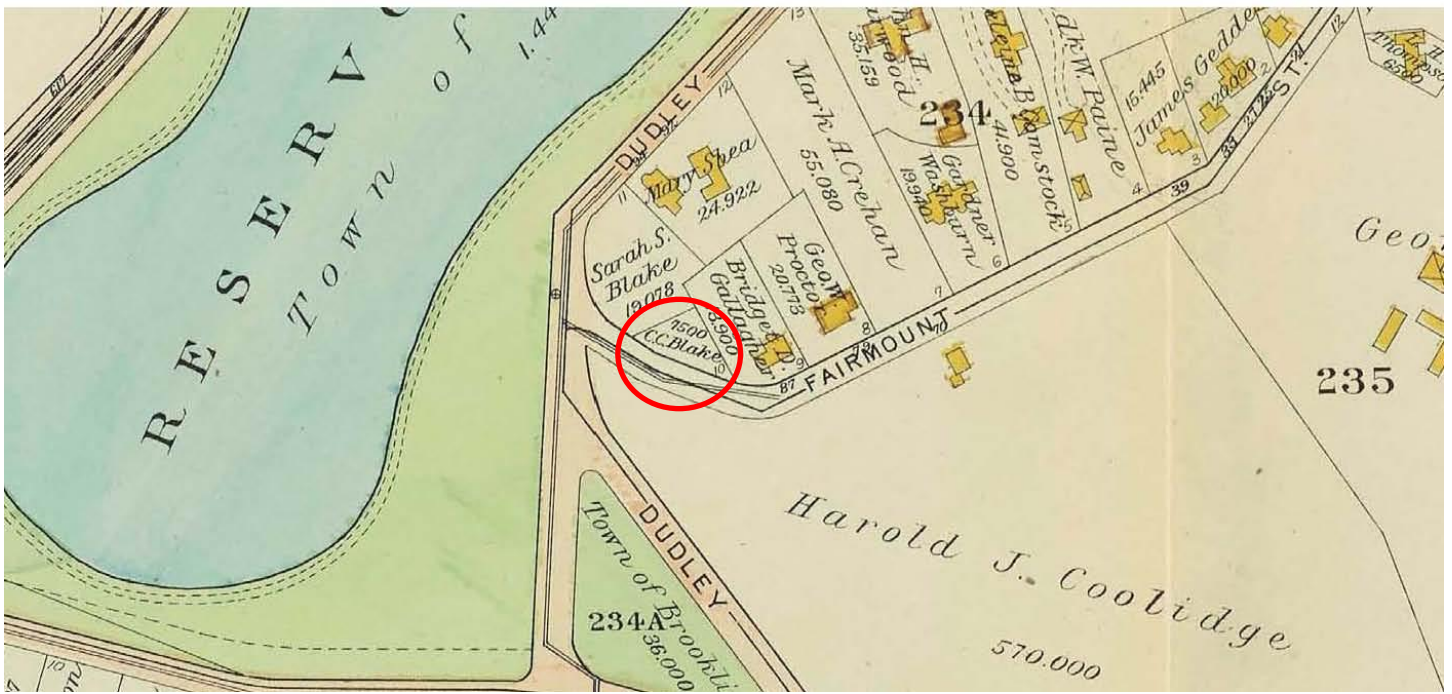
Side view of 99 Fairmount Street looking towards the Brookline Reservoir



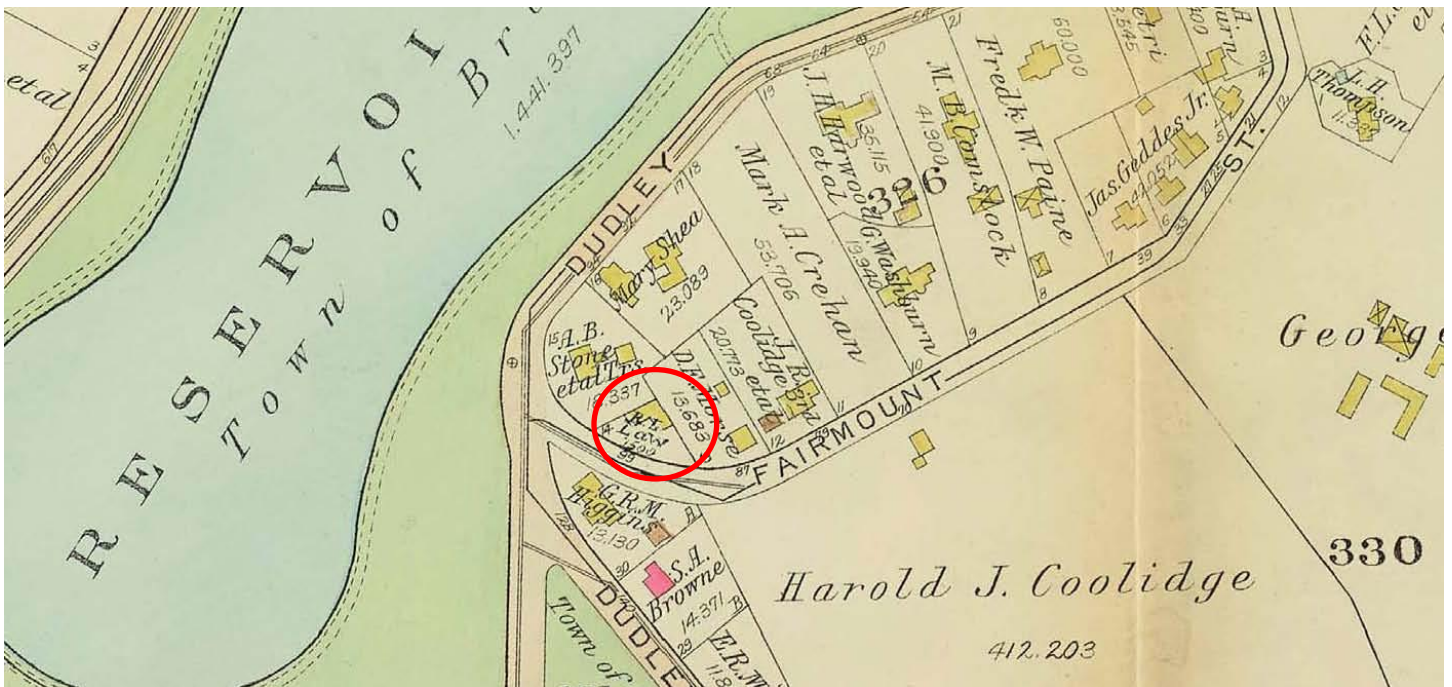


Photograph of a portion of the rear of 99 Fairmount Street





1919 Bromley Atlas



1927 Bromley Atlas